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Bangalore Mirror

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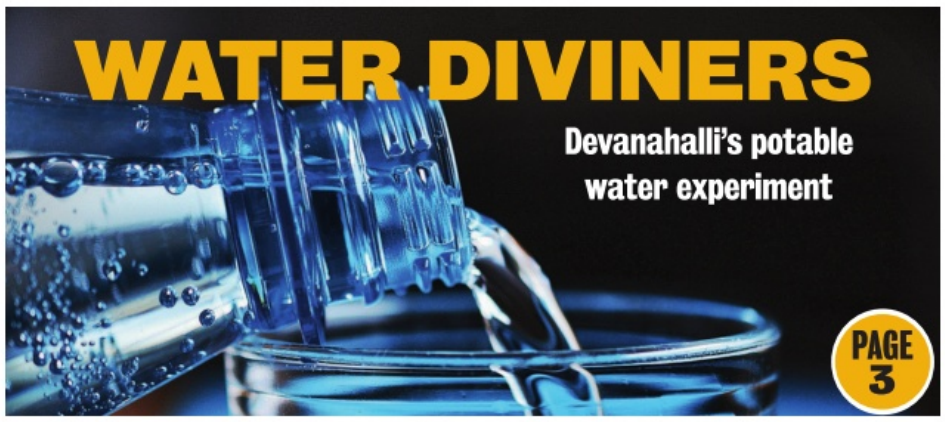

Signages at around 1-km radius of metro station would encourage walking, ease navigation for those who are new to city or new to taking public transport, say experts

SIGN OF THE TIMES

Physical signages crucial for seamless travel, but authorities slow to latch on

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Experts have urged the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) to install signages for commuters at around a 1-kilometre radius around metro stations, in order to encourage walking.

They say that though many use online maps to navigate their way, a city like Bengaluru must have proper signages to help citizens.

"There are two sets of people – one is a local who may have difficulty navigating through the first few days of using the metro. However, in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, there are thousands of travellers who may have moved from within the state or outside," said Rajkumar Dugar, a mobility expert and activist.

While most of the public now uses Google maps to get to desired destinations, Dugar said that the traveller population is likely to be unaware of the public transportation systems available in their neighbourhood to even attempt to reach them using the help of maps.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"The metro must ideally put up signages around a two-km radius to promote pedestrian behaviour. Those who walk regularly might pick up on it and switch to walking for first and last mile connectivity – A commuter

Over the edge

Gender disparity, families disbelieving their side of story, lack of counsellors — some issues Gen Z faces when it comes to mental health care

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Raghav*, an 18-year-old, tried to take his own life in January this year. He tells BM that he doesn't know the exact reason why he tried to do that, but since then he has been undergoing therapy sessions.

He says that his urge to take his own life started while he was in rehab for alcohol addiction and when he got out of there, he had nobody to talk to, so so he tried jumping off from a building, but was saved by a friend.

"I had almost jumped off the second floor of my friend's house when I was 17. And I was on LSD and don't even know till this day why I did that. I did resent myself for having the urge to do so. But after my friend informed my parents about it, my parents booked an appointment with a psychologist and I have been feeling a lot better since then," he told BM.

According to the latest Karnataka state police data, the state has recorded 261 cases for suicide under section 305, 306 and 309 of IPC in 2023.

The data shows that there are 52 cases of attempt to suicide, 93 cases for abetment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Junking single-use plastic

On World Environment Day, B'lureans work for an eco-friendly city

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In commemoration of World Environment Day, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) organised an awareness event at Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBBP) on June 3-4. Over 20,000 plus citizens participated during the awareness practices. The public were very thrilled and enjoyed the awareness session and assured themselves to stop single-use plastics.

The event aimed to educate participants about the detrimental effects of single-use plastics and disposables on the environment and wildlife, while promoting sustainable alternatives and waste reduction practices.

The alternative waste management processes, reduction and reuse, and individual actions towards a sustainable lifestyle were highlighted at the stalls, with placards and a selfie booth. The event also facilitated focused awareness by experts in different fields including forest officers for enhancing knowledge about low-carbon waste management among the stakeholders.

The event was organised as a part of the NAMA Facility supported project titled 'Circular Waste Solutions' which is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The Indo-German development cooperation project has joined hands with the NGO called Saahas to educate citizens on SUP ban and the ill effects of it on the environment by way of various activities like the street play and games.

Saplings being planted at Hullegowdanahalli in Nelamangala Taluk

Trashing the plastic trash

Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment, Ishwara Khandre, has announced that five major cities in the state will be made plastic waste-free this year.

Khandre was addressing a gathering at an award function organized on the occasion of World Environment Day by the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment in association with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board at the Central College Campus on Monday to honor individuals and organizations for their contribution to the environment.

"Apart from enforcing a strict ban on SUPs, we are committed to segregation and recycling of plastic waste into usable materials. The government will encourage startups involved in the research and development of innovative technologies to beat plastic pollution. We will also create a 'green fund' in collaboration with private sector CSR funding to support all these initiatives. Moreover, in line with the UN's initiative, a special drive will be taken up in five major cities in Karnataka to make them plastic waste free," said Khandre.

The minister also said that the department will plant five crore saplings across the state with the help of students and the public. He also said that required steps will be taken to monitor hospital waste and e-waste disposal systems.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also attended the event. **-BMB**

Planting saplings for a greener future

Suresh Kumar, a resident of Sahakarnagar, was acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Mann Ki Baat address on October 30, 2022 for his passion for protecting nature, made arrangements to plant 400 saplings on Monday, World Environment Day.

"I made arrangements to plant 400 saplings at Sahakarnagar in the city and Sondekoppa and Hullegowdanahalli in Nelamangala Taluk," said Suresh Kumar with a smile.

Suresh said that he has selected Sondekoppa and Hullegowdanahalli for planting saplings as there is no sufficient space at Sahakarnagar due to concretisation of the area. "I along with friends and volunteers have planted 25 saplings at Sahakaranagar today on the occasion of the World Environment Day. We planted 150 saplings at Sondekoppa and Hullegowdanahalli today. Planting of saplings will continue for two more days," Suresh Kumar said. **-Y Maheswara Reddy**

The world is his canvas

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At 27, Prateek Kushwaha has a lot of awards to his name. Having completed his postgraduate degree from National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, the painter, designer and filmmaker won a gold medal in a national art competition from the Haryana government in 2017. He also won international acclaim when he was awarded the Mahatma Gandhi peace award in 2013 for his paintings.

Talking about his journey, he said that it started when he was 10 years old. The main themes that his paintings deal with are nature and wildlife. "I travel and sit and paint. I'm also working with the forest ministry of Maharashtra. Currently I'm working around wildlife like birds, flowers and waterfalls. I also dabble in live and portrait paintings."

Explaining the project with Maharashtra government he said, "The aim is about creating museums in different states and cities. My role as art designer involves contributing ideas and execution. Currently we are working in Mantralaya in Maharashtra."

"I started with oil pastel. Right now I do more than 110 mediums. Currently I follow acrylic colours as it dries quickly.

In his third year of graduation, he also started his filmmaking journey. He made an animated film called 'Every canvas has a story'.

"Initially creating frame to frame was very boring. But when I saw the whole film, I

was surprised. It was insightful. I got to tell my story without any language bar." He added that the first film was interesting as he did not know how to animate! "I used to draw intricately. I then decided to animate the same. I realised that storytelling does not have to be very intricate. I learnt and started minimalism," he said.

His second animated film is a project for the United Nations. The animated film is about a ragpicker. "The 11-year-old ragpicker is earns and educates her brother. Society does not acknowledge their services. They are doing a job and earning. People just neglect them, abuse and molest them." He added that that they researched and talked to many ragpicker to form the story. All the places they go they are treated badly, he said. He has also worked on a project with the United Nations women for a gender equality project.

Emphasising on how he creates the artwork, he said, "I take pictures and put it together. Then I start to sketch. I usually take two - three weeks for wildlife painting."

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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Go swadeshi

India's first online marketplace and winner of the first National Award from the Government of India for Handloom Marketing (e-commerce) is hosting 'Go Swadeshi', a 9-day handloom exhibition. Go Swadeshi will showcase a wide range of exquisite and authentic handloom sarees, fabrics, dress materials, stoles, dupattas, menswear, home décor and accessory products by weavers and artisans from across India. The 9-day event is aimed at helping artisans and reinstating the pride in hand-spun, hand-woven and handcrafted products.

Where: Srinivasa Sagara Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar
When: June 3 - 11, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

02 Bookmarks

What are you reading these days? Is there an author or a poet that you have been amazed by recently? Or a book that changed your life. We would love to hear about it. Let's meet and share the magic of some wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way.

Where: Lahe Lahe
When: 10th June, 4-5:30 pm

Water diviners of Devanahalli

Ground-breaking project by organisation transforms treated waste water being pumped in lake into clean drinking water

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This is a rare success story at a time of water scarcity. Residents of Devanahalli have the Rotary Club of Bangalore South Parade to thank for completing a project that has transformed treated waste water being pumped into the Sihineerukere through BBMPs HN Valley project into clean drinking water.

Through the revival of the lake and an ancient open well and the installation of filtered borewells tapping water from the shallow aquifer, the club has effectively augmented the region's water resources.

The region of Devanahalli, renowned as the birthplace of Tipu Sultan, has long struggled with water scarcity. The town gets its water from 100-odd borewells dug around the town. The water coming out of these borewells, though clean, is saline due to dissolved solids, which makes it very brackish and not good to drink. Residents used this water for non-potable needs such as washing clothes, utensils, and vehicles.

The club identified the Sihineerukere as the source of water. This lake used to be the primary source of drinking water once. Sihineerukere receives natural water flow into it during monsoon. However, in non-rainy periods, the lake gets its water from the 2.1 million litres per day (MLD) of treated wastewater of Bengaluru being pumped to a few lakes of Devanahalli including Sihineerukere from the HN valley project. This water contains some levels of salinity, some E-coli and B-coli bacteria and needs treatment on the water clarity, after which it becomes fit for drinking purposes.

Recognising the pressing need for a sustainable and clean drinking water solution, the Rotary Club of Bangalore South stepped in, devoting one-and-a-half years to the ambitious project by converting treated sewage water into drinking water.

Anand Ramachandra, Club president said, "The project began with the rediscovery of an open well that had been neglected for over three decades. The well, believed to be more than a century old, had fallen into disrepair and had become filled with muck. Local residents and villagers had ceased using it as a water source. However, upon careful evaluation, the Rotary Club South Bangalore, found that the well had the potential to provide over 1.5 lakh litres of water per day, making it a vital resource for rejuvenating the region's water supply."

To revive the well, the team employed traditional methods of manual digging, enlisting the expertise of the Vaddar community, renowned for their skills in well excavation. They cleared the accumulated muck and reinforced the stone walls of the well in the traditional manner, allowing water to percolate naturally. Despite initial skepticism surrounding the well's revival, the project persevered, and to everyone's delight, water began flowing into the well once again.

"The well had the potential to provide over 1.5 lakh litres of water per day, making it a vital resource for rejuvenating the region's water supply

In addition to the well, they drilled two more shallow aquifers, reaching depths of 85-100 feet underground. Filtered pipes and filter media were installed to ensure that the water from these aquifers was purified to a large extent before being pumped into the open well.

Ramachandra said, "This source proved to be clean, sweet to drink, and meets most of the drinking water parameters that are laid out for drinking water. Those parameters which this water source does not meet are being addressed by installing a filtration mechanism which is going to remove dissolved solids, insects, bacteria, and make it totally in compliance with the drinking water needs. With the addition of two shallow aquifer filter wells, the yield will be 2.0 lakh litres per day."

According to the survey in Devanahalli, close to 35,000 residents, that is about one third of the population, can now easily get the treated drinking water.

Natural filtration

This apart, a filtration plant is installed that will carry out natural filtration. "The new filtration plant that is being put up is an online filter, which is sleek and sturdy; it encompasses carbon filtration, chlorine dousing, UV disinfection and can remove particles of up to 130 microns thin (1 micron is equivalent to 1/1,000 of a millimeter). Which makes it very efficient and takes very less space to house. The maintenance of this unit is also very easy, and the maintenance interval is about once every two years. The best part of this process is that the cost of the filtration comes down to Rs1.15/- per 10 litre of water," added Ramachandra.

So far, the total entire project cost was Rs 60 lakh, while another Rs 2 crore is sanctioned for the lakes development by construction of waste weir, further augmentation of the lake and beautification of the lake that will be carried out in the next three years.

Toll plaza employee clubbed to death

A group of men are said to have killed a toll plaza employee after a dispute over toll payment on Sunday night. The incident happened at Seshagirihalli toll plaza in Ramanagara taluk.

When a car travelling from Mysuru to Bengaluru at 10 pm on Sunday approached the Seshagirihalli toll plaza, a couple of the men in the car refused to pay the toll, setting off a verbal altercation between the toll workers, including 26-year-old Pawan Kumar. Pawan is a resident of Bengaluru South taluk's Karaikal Tanda.

Later, a fight broke out close to the toll booth as a result of the verbal abuse between the two sides. The CCTV camera stationed close to the toll plaza captured the altercation.

Locals managed to interven and break up the fight then, but the group waited for Pawan close to the toll booth. When Pawan took a break and went outside for food at around 12 am, he was accosted by the accused with hockey clubs and beaten to death. Using CCTV cameras placed at the toll booth, the authorities are attempting to identify the suspects. A case has been registered at the Bidadi Police Station.

Car overturns on expressway

A major accident took place on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, where a car overturned.

Five people in the car have been injured and two among them are in critical condition. The injured in the accident hailed from Bengaluru. The car was going to Mysuru from Bengaluru.

Those injured in the accident are being treated at Mandya Mims Hospital.

The Mandya Central police station visited the place and evacuated the car.

Suspecting affair, man stabs wife to death

A man is said to have hacked his wife to death and stabbed her numerous times, on Sunday night in Basaveshwaranagar police station limits. It is said that he stabbed her because he suspected her of having an extramarital affair.

The deceased has been identified as Nagarathna, 32. She had two children, a daughter aged seven and a son aged eleven. The police have taken Ayyappa, the accused, into custody.

Nagarathna was raised in an orphanage and is said to have married Ayyappa 12 years ago.

It is alleged that the two would routinely argue about this suspicion that Ayyappa had that Nagarathna was having an affair with another man. During the past few months, Ayyappa is said to have grown more and more suspicious of her.

Ayyappa left his kids with her older sister on Sunday. He then got into a confrontation with his wife once he got home and accused her of being unfaithful. He then took out a knife and killed Nagarathna by repeatedly stabbing her everywhere on her body, including her private parts.

The accused is being questioned by the police. **BMB**

3 interstate ganja peddlers held

Three interstate drug peddlers were arrested by the Pulikeshinagar police on Monday. The accused have been identified as Prema, Sunita and Muthyalamma. According to the police, they used to bring marijuana from Jharkhand and sell it in Bengaluru. Cannabis was grown in the hilly areas of Jharkhand. They used to pack the ganja in small packets and sell them near colleges and shops. The police have registered a case and arrested the accused. **BMB**

Free bus travel update

The free bus travel scheme for women won't be extended to inter-state travel and women will have to get 'zero' tickets. The scheme will be continued from June 11. Until the Shakthi Smart Cards are issued, women can get zero tickets by showing an ID proof. Later, Shakthi Smart Cards will be issued through the Seva Sindhu portal. The services will not be extended to inter-state buses, luxury and AC buses.

According to KSRTC sources, 24,000 buses are operated by four transport corporations (BMTC, KSRTC, NWKRTC and NEKRTC). Of this, 1,728 are considered premium class (including Rajahamsa, Non-AC and AC sleeper) where the service is not applicable. The expenses borne by the four RTCs will be reimbursed based on distance travelled by women (in km). **BMB**

Making the cut

BBMP finally finds a bidder for half-done Ejipura flyover project on its fourth attempt; out of 81 proposed pillars, only 67 have been completed thus far

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File photo of the Ejipura Flyover from 2021

After three unsuccessful attempts, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally found a bidder for the long-delayed Ejipura flyover project on its fourth attempt. However, the cost escalation has become a concern for the civic agency, as the project is now estimated to cost Rs 252 crore. The proposed flyover spans 2.5 km in Koramangala's 100-Feet Main Road, from the junction of Ejipura Main Road-Outer Ring Road to Kendriya Sadan Junction.

During the fourth tender process, only one company participated. The BBMP had initially estimated the project to be completed at a cost of Rs 204 crore. However, the sole bidding company quoted an additional 25 per cent cost. With no other companies willing to participate, BBMP officials held negotiations with the contractor, resulting in an agreement to start the work at an extra cost of 19.5 per cent (reduced from the earlier 25 per cent).

The report has now been submitted to the tender evaluation committee, headed by the BBMP Chief Commissioner, for approval. Once approved, it will be forwarded to the Urban Development Department, which will make the final call.

Looking back, the contract for constructing the flyover was awarded to Simplex Infrastructure Ltd in 2017, with an expected completion date of 2019. However, as the work progressed slowly, the tender was eventually cancelled. Despite extended deadlines, no significant progress was made. Consequently, the BBMP forfeited the security amount of Rs 10.16 crore deposited by the previous company.

The cost of the crucial flyover that connects east Bengaluru to the south is now estimated to cost Rs 252 crore. The earlier deadline for the project was to be completed by 2024

Out of the 81 proposed pillars for the flyover, only 67 have been completed thus far. Surprisingly, this project was initiated by the previous Congress government, and even after a change of government, there has been little progress. Overall, the project stands at a completion rate of only 42.83 per cent.

This project is proving to be a costly affair for the BBMP. If Simplex Infrastructure Ltd had completed the flyover on time, the project would have cost Rs 204 crore. However, the cost has now increased by Rs 49 crore, and any further delays may lead to additional inflationary costs.

The Ejipura flyover is a classic example of projects that are either half-done or long-drawn in the city. The foundation stone for the project was laid way back in 2017, and work started in 2018. From 2018–2019, there was a mere 32 per cent progress, and between 2019 and 2023, the progress was just 10 per cent. After Simplex Infrastructure Ltd turned bankrupt and the contract was cancelled, BBMP failed to retender the project.

As per the High Court directive, the tender was cancelled and retendered. Tenders were called three times, but they failed to materialise on the previous three occasions. The tender for the 2.5 km stretch was floated in 2018 with a target date of 30 months to completion at a cost of Rs 203 crore. The project cost was revised to Rs 240 crore, but the remaining works are estimated to be worth Rs 141.6 crore. The earlier deadline for the project was to be completed by 2024. This is a crucial flyover as it connects east Bengaluru to the south.

'Prioritise trees with strong roots'

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FALL ALARM

No, we don't mean autumn. BM takes a look at the anatomy of trees and why more and more are toppling in wind and rain these days

BM's report on May 30, 2023 about more trees toppling in wind and rain these days

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has instructed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to prioritise the planting of trees with strong roots in the city. In the last few years, the city has lost hundreds of trees, and environmentalists have blamed the civic agency for adopting fast-growing trees rather than indigenous trees that have strong root systems and can withstand heavy rainfall and wind.

Shivakumar stated, "From this year on, there is a need for scientific planting of trees. We must carefully plan how each sapling is planted, ensuring a minimum gap between trees. Detailed planning is necessary."

During an Environment Day programme, Shivakumar directed the Chief Commissioner to identify roads lacking trees and collaborate with schools to facilitate the adoption of tree planting. He stressed the importance of providing saplings to schools and ensuring the protection of trees.

"Schools should be encouraged to display boards, allowing each student to adopt and care for a plant. There should be a competition. Healthy competition will help students take ownership. They should water the plant, and the student's name can be associated with the tree. Students will make efforts to save the tree and feel proud to manage it. This approach will mirror the way we care for children, as these children will take care of the trees," he said.

Recognising the need for long-term planning, Shivakumar emphasised that the BBMP should focus on promoting greenery in areas without trees rather than prioritising parks, as the horticulture department is responsible for park maintenance. He stressed the importance of deep-rooted trees and the implementation of daily activities to protect them. To safeguard trees, he proposed the establishment of WhatsApp groups where students could report data on tree protection.

Furthermore, he suggested involving private layouts, BDA (Bangalore Development Authority) layouts, and private individuals in promoting greenery. He instructed the BBMP to enter into agreements with schools within 60 days, ensuring shared accountability in tree planting efforts.

Meanwhile, the Health Department has asked Bengalureans to minimise plastic. "At an individual level, it is crucial to initiate a reduction in carbon-intensive activities. This includes minimising the use of plastic products and ensuring their proper disposal and recycling. Additionally, efforts should be made to reduce printing materials and paper usage. Encouraging staff members to use public transport, bicycles, or walk to and from the healthcare facility can significantly contribute to reducing carbon emissions," said an advisory.

Unnecessary travel, such as for conferences, and meetings should be minimised, and online sessions should be considered whenever feasible. Planting saplings on the premises of healthcare institutions is a proactive step, it added.

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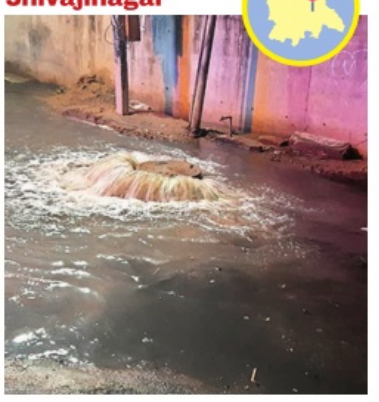
Waste dump
RT Nagar

There is an issue of trash being dumped and not cleared in Block 1, 12th Cross, RT Nagar. Urgent attention is required to address this problem and ensure proper waste management in the area.

Limiting space
Jayanagar

The footpath in Jayanagar 5th Block is currently obstructed by construction material, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk. Additionally, cars parked on the footpath further limit the space for pedestrians.

Clear it
Shivajinagar



There is a drainage overflow issue near Mahbub Manzil, 16/1, 12th E St Rd, Rajiv Gandhi Colony, Shivajinagar. This situation poses a health risk to the residents of the area.

Holding single-use plastic pen makers accountable

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A group of Bengalureans have started a campaign to collect single-use plastic pens from colleges and send them to respective manufacturers in a bid to hold them accountable for their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

The campaign emerged when a Bengalurean eating fried fish at a restaurant, along with the fish bones, found a pen cap inside. The shocked man started the campaign to ensure proper disposal of single-use plastic pens.

Vinod Kartavya, a civic activist and a lead campaigner said, "One of my friends discovered the pen cap. We speculated the fish may consume it. We began to research the issue. Plastic was developed as an alternative to paper bags and is being dumped into the earth. As per our research, we found out that around 10 lakh plastic bottles are dumped every minute. Nano and microplastics are seeping into our system through water resources."

Realising the gravity of the situation, activists decided to take the situation into control. "Single-use pens are comparatively economical and are being used extensively. We decide to go to nearby colleges and create awareness about the hazardous nature of these plastic pens. We went to a nearby college and collected all the single-use pens. Among the 300-400 students in college, we collected nearly 150 plastic pens. After the collection drive, we made the students take a pledge to not use single-use plastic pens.

Group of citizens campaign to collect single-use plastic pens and send them to manufacturers for proper disposal

" As per the SWM 2016, manufacturers as supposed to have EPR. EPR insists that manufacturers have to collect used pens and recycle them," he added.

The team plans to hold responsible for their EPR. The collection drive will happen every Saturday and Sunday. SWM expert Ram Prasad said manufacturers have EPR for the composition of the pens. They have to collect, transport, segregate and process the plastic waste.

Prasad added that consumers should also take responsibility that the product does not harm them at a later stage. Failure to implement EPR should be seen as a consumer rights violation.

"Under the new contract, specification of the daily collection quantity and mandate to collect the specified quantity should be ensured."

The pen cap that was found in the fish served at the eatery

Their health, up in flames

Garbage being burnt in clear violation of rules in different parts of the city

Citizens gasping for breath due to garbage being burnt openly — and illegally — in many parts of the city

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Although Karnataka's solid waste management rule prohibits burning of garbage in buildings, on the roadsides, and on vacant sites, whether public or private properties, the rule is openly being flouted and garbage burning is still rampant in many parts of Bengaluru, mostly the outskirts.

So much so, that the residents living in these areas are witnessing its impact on their health.

A case in point is that of people living on Kodathi Huskur Road (off Sarjapur Road) and nearby areas. Locals say they are facing health issues such as breathlessness and uneasiness due to the frequent burning of tonnes of garbage after being dumped on a nearby private property for nearly four years now.

"Our house is within half a kilometre radius of the vacant property being used to burn heaps of garbage daily. I have a two-and-a-half-year-old son who developed health issues a few months ago. Persistent cold, cough, and fever were some of the symptoms. When we took him to a doctor, we were told that air pollution may be responsible for his health issues. We then decided to send our son to live with his grandparents in another part of the city," said a resident of the area.

Locals say nearly ten lorries of mixed garbage are dumped on the vacant site every day and put on fire daily. Garbage consists of e-waste, bio-medical waste, and sometimes hazardous waste, along with regular domestic waste.

"The area is mostly enveloped in thick black smoke and causes breathlessness sometimes –A resident

"We have seen hospital waste along with other forms of garbage being dumped on the site and burned. The area is mostly enveloped in thick black smoke and causes breathlessness sometimes," said a resident of Chennakeshava Layout, an apartment complex in the area.

The rampant garbage burning, locals allege, has been going on for nearly four years now. While residents of the area have reached out to various government agencies and officials for help, their plea has fallen on deaf ears.

"I moved to this area over years ago and the garbage burning issue is going on since then, unabated. After we started facing health issues, we reached out to officials from Kodathi Panchayat. I have been raising the issue with picture evidence since then, but the Panchayat officials have not been able to take any action so far," rued another resident of the area.

Some of the house owners at Chennakeshava Layout say after the Panchayat officials failed to take action, they have now registered a complaint with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

"We have raised the issue through KSPCB's online portal and waiting for their response," said a local.

When BM reached out to a member from Kodathi Gram Panchayat, they said the issue has been brought to the notice of Panchayat's secretary.

"We have escalated the problem after locals reached out to us with the issue. However, no direction has been issued by the officials so far to prevent it from happening," said the Kodathi Gram Panchayat member.

IN BRIEF

Congress mulls anti-communal forces helpline

The Karnataka Congress is considering setting up of a 'Peaceful Karnataka' helpline against communal forces and to ensure law and order in the society.

The development follows the BJP's recent announcement to set up a 24-hour helpline for its workers who are allegedly troubled by the Congress government in the state.

Minister for Medium and Large Industries MB Patil on Monday urged Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara and Minister for RDPR Priyank Kharge to consider setting up the new helpline called 'Peaceful Karnataka'.

He further stated that this helpline is needed to ensure there is no hatred being spread in Karnataka, and keep track of any such incidents.

"Our agenda is only development and progress, and to protect 'Brand Karnataka'," Patil explained.

On June 3, Bengaluru South MP and BJP Yuva Morcha President Tejasvi Surya said it would soon launch helplines for BJP workers in the state.

"It has come to our notice that BJP workers are targeted in the state and false cases are lodged against them and threats are issued to them. To protect our workers from the legal atrocities of the Congress government in the state, a team of advocates is prepared to carry out the legal battle," Surya explained.

Oh fish! Water in this lake is deadly

Residents, activists spot dead fish in Kundalahalli Lake, suspect sewage is entering waterbody

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Kundalahalli and surrounding areas were very happy when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took up rejuvenation of Kundalahalli Lake and establishment of a sewage treatment plant (STP) in 2016 at an estimated cost of Rs 6 crore. However, the residents' joy was short-lived due to the frequent incidents of fish being killed in the water body.

"I am not happy with incidents of fish being killed at the lake. I suspect sewage entering the lake from a nearby slum as the reason for the death of the fish. I came to know that the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) wrote a letter to the BBMP authorities to take measures for stopping sewage entering the lake," said Vishaka Pathak, a resident of the area.

On June 2, the KSPCB Mahadevapura Zone Environmental Officer wrote a letter to the Chief Engineer of the Environment Cell of the BBMP about the measures to be taken to prevent fish from being killed at Kundalahalli Lake.

"This office has received a complaint about fish killing in Kundalahalli Lake. The lake was inspected on May 24 and noted several dead and floating fish. A sample of lake water has also been collected for analysis. Also, it was noted that there is sewage entering the lake.

Dead fish floating on the surface of Kundalahalli Lake; Activists state that this is the seventh fish kill at water bodies in Bengaluru

This type of fish kill incident is happening in most of the lakes situated in Bengaluru," the Environmental Officer said in the letter.

The Environmental Officer has also stated that discharging sewage effluents directly into natural water bodies is an offence committed under Section 24 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, which invites a penal action under the said Act.

Sudarshan, another resident, said the BBMP authorities removed the dead fish from the lake after receiving the complaint. "As of now, the lake is free from dead fish. I want the BBMP authorities to take preventive measures to avoid sewage entering the lake," he said.

Expressing concern over the incidents of fish being killed at Kundalahalli Lake, Raghavendra B Pachhapur, programme manager with ActionAid Association, said the KSPCB has classified the quality of lake water under the D category, but incidents of fish kills are being reported. "The KSPCB authorities should not become complacent by serving a notice to the BBMP authorities. They have to collect water samples from water bodies frequently and prepare reports on the quality of the water in the lakes. It is the seventh fish kill at water bodies in Bengaluru in five months," he explained.

> **"I am not happy with incidents of fish being killed at the lake. I suspect sewage entering the lake from a nearby slum as the reason for the death** -V Pathak

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) said that the lakes department has approached the Fisheries Department to test the water quality in Kundalahalli Lake. "We inspected the lake to find out if there was any sewage flowing into the lake. We found no sewage flowing into the lake during the inspection," said the Executive Engineer.

Dr RS Nagendra Babu, Assistant Director of Fisheries Department, said a particular species of fish, silver carp, was found dead at Kundalahalli Lake. "These fish die whenever dirty water (rainwater) enters the water body. The death of silver carp can be avoided if boating is organised to dilute dirty water. There was no mass mortality at Kundalahalli Lake to prove that the lake is polluted with sewage," he added.

Put off power tariff: KASSIA

Reports that the power tariff increase for the current month of June would be up by Rs 2.89 per unit have sent shockwaves among the industry fraternity, especially the micro and small-scale industries of Karnataka, said KASSIA.

> **KASSIA said that it has been repeatedly urging the government to defer all such hikes that hurt the industry till normalcy is restored**

It also expressed its displeasure about the extent of the hike.

"We understand that the abnormal hike is on account of the arrears of 70 paise pertaining to April, the approved hike of 70 paise as per tariff order May 12, and the fuel and purchase cost adjustment (FPPCA) fee of January, but this should have been staggered in a way to mitigate the burden on the industry," said KN Narasimha Murthy, president, KASSIA.

He said,"We have been repeatedly urging the government to defer all such hikes that hurt the industry till normalcy is restored in the economy or for at least two years, but our voice is not being heard.

"While we accept that this government needs time to settle down before taking any major decisions, such major issues concerning the very survival of industry should have been taken with a little more sensitivity towards our grievances and situation," he explained.

KASSIA also pointed out that while it was not against the freebies announced by the government for the citizens, this should not come at the cost of the industry, which is already bearing the burden of the state. —BMB

'Time to restore brand Bengaluru'

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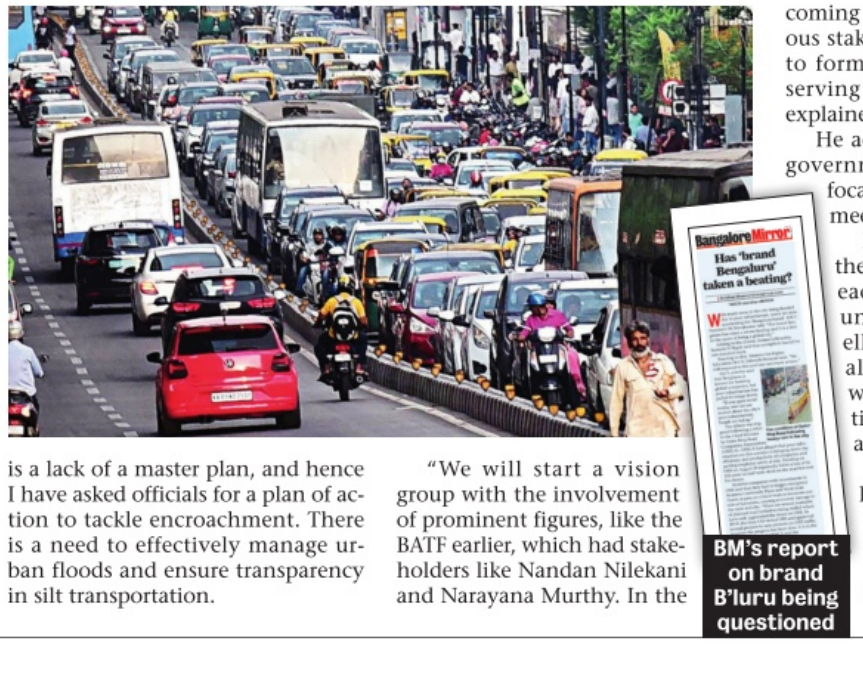
Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF), the initiative started during SM Krishna's tenure as the Chief Minister of Karnataka, may be making a comeback. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar held a meeting with Bengaluru legislators and parliamentarians on Monday, where he hinted at the formation of a vision group.

Addressing the media, DK Shivakumar stressed the need to restore the brand Bengaluru, which has suffered setbacks in recent times.

He said, "There is a need to stress the importance of addressing key issues such as drinking water availability, solid waste management, and traffic management. As of now, there is a lack of a master plan, and hence I have asked officials for a plan of action to tackle encroachment. There is a need to effectively manage urban floods and ensure transparency in silt transportation.



BM's report on brand B'luru being questioned

"We will start a vision group with the involvement of prominent figures, like the BATF earlier, which had stakeholders like Nandan Nilekani and Narayana Murthy. In the coming days, we plan to invite various stakeholders and entrepreneurs to form a Vision Bengaluru team, serving as an advisory group," he explained.

He added that accountability of government officials was another focal point discussed during the meeting.

Furthermore, he emphasised the need for individual files for each ward, mapping of work undertaken, and the remodelling of BDA complexes. He also sought a report on the water supply to address allegations of unequal distribution and water pressure issues.

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar had written to Shivakumar, stressing the importance of making Bengaluru a successful brand. He called for a ban on flex banners, which are often put up indiscriminately across the city. Kumar also highlighted the need for effective management of underpasses to prevent waterlogging. He suggested proactive pruning of trees before the rainy season to mitigate tree damage and emphasised the promotion of cycling and the banning of plastic.

> **"We will start a vision group with the involvement of prominent figures, like the BATF earlier**
> -DK Shivakumar

BATF, established in 1999 under SM Krishna's leadership, was a collaborative effort between corporate Bangalore and the government to drive the city's development. The project received an initial investment of Rs 2 crore from former Infosys CEO Nandan Nilekani.

The wage war continues

Group of dry waste pickers unite at Press Club to complain about not being given their due salaries by the BBMP; citizens say the civic body must step up immediately

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A group of dry waste pickers who maintain dry waste collection centres (DWCCs) gathered at Press Club on Monday to narrate their woes due to non-payment of wages by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

It is believed the BBMP is yet to pay Rs 9,41,03,212 to people managing DWCCs at 43 wards in the city. While a few of them are denied wages for more than 20 months, others are waiting for wages for more than a year.

These waste pickers are silent environmentalists who recover resources from discards of the rich that are the base material for the recycling industry. They divert recyclable waste for landfill and also reduce the cost of collection and transportation for the local government.

Considering their contribution, the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rule 2016 included them as important stakeholders in solid waste management. But justice has been denied for waste pickers in spite of their integration into Solid Waste Management.

As per the memorandum of agreement (MoA) signed between the dry waste collectors and the BBMP, each of the DWCC is eligible to get Rs 23,316 per month if the BBMP does not provide vehicles to collect dry waste from door to door in the respective ward.

The people managing the DWCCs are collecting dry waste with a hope that the authorities would pay the wages to them. They want the BBMP authorities to pay the wages immediately, provide better conditions of work in DWCC - with better buildings or renovated infrastructure and

The dry waste pickers gather at Press Club to protest

"When we go to the BBMP office to claim our payments, they keep sending us from one official to another –Nadia, operating DWCC in ward 84

fire insurance for all DWCCs, regularise the payment so there is a stable income to manage collection and processing of dry waste.

"We thank BBMP for integrating us into the formal solid waste management but regular support is missing from them. We request BBMP to support us on a regular basis, especially the payments," said Mansoor, DWCC operator at ward 168.

Bangalore Mirror
When's payday? Waste pickers ask
BM's report on June 2 reported on a petition being filed to release their wages

Indumathi, DWCC operator at ward 150, said that initially the MoA was for four months and the payments were made regularly but now the MoA is for three years. "They are supposed to pay Rs 56,316 for the first six months, if the vehicle is not provided by them then they need to pay Rs 26,316 as rent for each vehicle, but that has not happened since months," she said.

Nadia, who operates DWCC at ward 84, said that she was fed up visiting the BBMP Head Office seeking wages. "When we go to the BBMP office for payments, they send us from one official to another. We waste pickers who don't know how to read and write; they don't give us time. If we keep running around like this for payment, who will go and pick up waste? Who will do the work?" asked Nadia.

Anjali Purohit, a citizen, said the BBMP needs to upgrade DWCCs and equip it as per the agreement; instead, they were seizing the vehicles of the poor waste pickers.

"This is not acceptable to the citizens. We as a city should take responsibility. It is shameful and disgraceful that we are exploiting the lowest of the low in society. I can vouch for these people; we have worked together and increased dry waste collection 300-400 per cent. But we have BBMP on the other side who does not pay them," she said.

Budget on July 7, says CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the Budget session of the new Assembly will mostly begin from July 3 and the budget will be presented on July 7.

A decision would be taken in this regard in the cabinet meeting, he said.

Addressing reporters at Davanagere helipad, the CM noted that the previous government had presented a budget of Rs 3.09 lakh crore. "We can only get clarity regarding the size of the budget only after the meeting on budgetary preparations," he said.

To a reporter's questions on the cow slaughter bill, the CM only maintained that the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act, 1964 already existed and an amendment was brought to the same.

He also said that the Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Panchayat CEOs have been instructed to provide seeds and fertilizers to farmers on time. It is also instructed to take necessary precautions, he said.

Reacting to the increase in electricity tariff, the CM said that a decision was taken about the increase by KERC and the same was being implemented.

He said officials have been directed to make arrangements to reopen the Indira canteens to provide subsidised food to the poor people. A He said that arrangements will be made to provide salary to the employees of the canteens if they have not received it, he said.

–IANS

'People being provoked to misuse free power scheme'

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday alleged that the BJP was provoking people in the state to misuse free electricity up to 200 units scheme.

"The BJP is asking people to use electricity without any restraint. We will ensure that the scheme is not misused and put brakes on reckless usage of electricity by the people," he stated.

"Our government has announced the scheme of free supply of power for the benefit of the poor and the middle class. We have allowed the people to use 10 per cent additionally to their previous year's consumption of electricity. The people have accepted this scheme with celebration and welcomed it," Siddaramaiah stated.

"But, the BJP party, rejected by the people, is provoking them to misuse the scheme and encouraging reckless consumption of electricity. This is anti-people. We are confident that conscious people of the state would not encourage them in this aspect," Siddaramaiah stated.

–IANS

Where the muck once was

The black spot on Malleshpalya Main Road being cleaned after BM's story

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has taken measures to remove the black spots created by garbage contractors at Malleshpalya and Ramesh Nagar.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – Scum undone – on June 2 narrating how motorists and pedestrians are struggling to walk on Malleshpalya Main Road and Basavanagar and Ramesh Nagar Main Road due to the black spots.

The SWM engineer deputed pourakarmikas to clear garbage strewn on the road while transferring garbage from auto-tippers to garbage compactor. "I will ensure the place is free from garbage by Monday evening," said a health inspector of CV Raman Nagar ward.

The SWM assistant engineer of Vignana Nagar ward has also directed the garbage contractor to keep the garbage transferring spot free from the muck.

Meanwhile, pedestrians and motorists have appreciated the SWM engineers of CV Raman Nagar ward and Vignana Nagar ward for taking measures to beautify the black spots that used to haunt them. "I expect the BBMP authorities to avoid this spot becoming a black spot again in the near future," said Manjunath S, a resident of Malleshpalya.

Bangalore Mirror
While transferring mixed waste from auto tippers to garbage compactors, trail of leachate left behind at areas — some of which have just recently been beautified
SCUM UNDONE
BM's report on June 2 had reported on the black spots being ignored

Murugan K, a resident of Ramesh Nagar, has said that black spots on the main road were an eyesore. "I want to thank the BBMP authorities for keeping the place clean. I hope the place will remain clean and neat in the future too," he said.

First train chugs out of accident affected section in Balasore

#New Delhi

The first train on the section where the accident happened in Balasore started its journey at around 10.40 pm on Sunday, 51 hours after the horrific crash which killed 275 people, officials said.

The goods train was seen off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw as scores of mediapersons and railway officials looked on.

The train carrying coal is headed towards Rourkela Steel plant from Vizag port and is running on the same track where the ill-fated Bangalore-Howrah train met with the tragedy on Friday.

The Howrah-bound train crashed with the capsized bogies of the Coromandel Express which had collided with a stationary freight train seconds earlier. "Down-line restoration complete. First train movement in section," tweeted Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Barely two hours after the restoration of the downline, the upline was also restored.

An empty goods train was the first train to run on the up line of the accident affected section. This is the same track on which the Coromandel Express was running before it entered into the loop line to crash into a stationary goods train. PTI

Passengers of the Guwahati Express have been waiting for the last four days at the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli as their train has been postponed since the disaster at Balasore

In difficult times, art can prove life-saver

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of suicide, 5 for dowry and 111 are mentioned as 'others'.

In the section for crime against woman, the data reveals that 13 cases have been registered in the state this year, for abetment of suicide to a woman.

Shivani, a college student who was recently diagnosed with clinical depression, says that gender and finances impact if a person can seek help for mental health issues.

"I had informed my family members that I am feeling suicidal but they didn't take my word seriously and continued to ignore my problems.

My father said that they are already doing enough by spending money on a girl's education, they don't want extra financial burden because of me. Later, when I cut my hands with a blade, my parents took me to a clinic but still didn't want to seek any professional help.

Now, I am doing a bit of freelancing work with my studies, and I am also seeking professional help from the money that I earn," she said.

Saher Ali, holistic psychologist, says that there is a gap as far as the availability of counsellors goes and also there is no quality check to ensure that ethics are being followed. However, she says that if students are given an outlet like art to express their opinion from a young age, that can help with mental health issues. "We need to address this situation in group counsellings and that is how we will be able to meet the needs of a large population. We need to promote art in schools and colleges to help students find an outlet.

Nowadays, people see things on social media about mental health, but then social media can't give them any solution and many times what we see on the internet is not right. But these are mostly social media influencers who might not have any kind of certification.

If we want to eradicate the problem, we have to start from a very young age, like teaching young children about mental health and boundaries," she said.

(name changed)*

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHAVENDRA RAO SHASTRI R/a No. 59, Vasantha Nilaya, Jayalakshmamma Layout, Annapoorneshwari Layout, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072 have changed my name to VASANTH RAO RAGHVENDRA RAO SHASTHRY vide affidavit dated 25.04.2023 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, C S Saravanakumar, R/o House No 53, 54 Sunshine Paradise Layout, Opp. Lake Montfort School, Kurudu Sonnenahalli, Avalahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560049 have changed my son name (minor) from Jaswik Chengappa Subramanyam to Jaswik Polisetty

I C S Saravanakumar R/o House No 53,54 Sunshine Paradise Layout, Opp. Lake Montfort School, Kurudu Sonnenahalli, Bangalore-560049 have changed my name from C S Saravana Kumar to C S Saravanakumar

I Mohita Mourya R/a #3101, Prestige Shantiniketan, White - field Main Rd, Mahadevapura, B'lore-560048, have changed my name to Mohita Gupta vide affidavit dt 05.06.2023 before notary B.M.Chandrashekar

I, Rizwan Pasha Basha S/o Basha R/o #163 Yarab Nagar , Banashankari , 2nd Stage , B'lore-560070 have changed my name to Rizwan Pasha .

I, MOHAMED YOUSUFF HASHIM KANDANARI 536, 3rd stage pillana garden Bangalore –45 I, have changed my name to MOHAMMED YOUSUFF HASHIM KANDANARI, Vide affidavit, dated 30/05/2023 sworn before notary V. Rajashekhara Bangalore

I, YASAR ARAFAT KANDANARI #,536, 3rd Stage, Pillana Garden, Bangalore–45. I, have changed my name to YASAR ARAFATH KANDANARI, Vide affidavit, dated 30/05/2023 Sworn before Notary: V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore

I, Spoorthi Nagasandra Gopala Gowda R/o No.315, 1st Flr, 2nd F main, 11th blk, Papareddy-palya, Nagarabhavi, 2nd stage, B'luru 560072 have changed my name to Spoorti Gowda Affidavit Dt.05/06/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M. V, B'luru

I, Shital Kumar R/o S11, A Block, Ssb Royal Apartment, Sy No. 30/1, Basapura, Bangalore, 560100 have changed my minor son's name from Ayansh Lohani to Kabir Lohani for all purposes.

I, Ramu Gangaiah R/o No-312, 1st Main Road 6th Cross , Kamala Nagar Basaveshwara - nagar B'luru-560079 have changed my name to Ramu Gangayya for all purposes

Show me the way to the next metro station

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He explained that signages that are standardised must be installed uniformly within a one-km radius across all the metro stations. "The boards can also indicate the colour of the corridor running through along with the name of the station in both English and Kannada. They must also carry the distance between the location of the signage and the metro station," he said.

He added that this may put an end to fleecing by auto drivers during rides meant for first mile connectivity. "For example, if a board said 340 mt, the potential commuter would prefer to just walk it instead of seeking an auto driver to reach the metro station. It's a win-win for both the BMRCL as well as the potential commuter as it increases the customer base for the former and eases transportation for the latter," he said.

When asked if the same could be applied to the bus stops in the city, Dugar said that they are scattered across the city unlike metro stations which are situated in corridors. Along with this, these bus stops are prone to often revision depending on commuter needs and change in their mobility pattern.

Deepthika (name changed), a regular commuter, shared an instance of when she had to reach the Indiranagar metro station which was at a walkable distance from her location.

"It was not even more than 1.5 kilometres away from my location. As soon as I got out, auto drivers swarmed around me and I had no choice but to take one of them.

Signages would definitely help in such a situation," she said. She urged that popular public spaces, both private and public, also have signages with details in order to promote public transport.

"The metro must ideally put up signages around a two-km radius to promote pedestrian behaviour. Those who walk regularly might pick up on it and switch to walking for first and last mile connectivity," she said.

Dr Ashish Verma, Convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST) said that passenger information systems should not only be available virtually through applications or websites but must also be physically integrated.

"Right from the point you come out of the door step, there must be signages to guide you to the nearest public transportation system. Inside the station, there must be signages for seamless passage of commuters to their respective platforms and catch the correct train. Further, one must know where to exit to reach their destination," he said.

He added that physical signages are crucial for seamless travel but has been hardly tapped into by authorities despite it deterring several passengers from using public transport.

HEALTH TIP: Spinach, along with other leafy greens such as broccoli and kale – is packed with zeaxanthin and lutein, which lower the risk of developing macular degeneration and cataracts

Almonds are filled with vitamin E, which research shows may protect the eyes from free radical damage

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ARTIST ALERT

CATCH A DIVA

We catch up with 92-year-old Cuban musician ahead of her first performance in city

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Ninety-two-year-old Cuban performer Omara Portuondo is headed to the city! Her latest album release, VIDA, showcases her musical legacy and features a stellar lineup of legendary singers. With a remarkable journey spanning over half a century, Omara's fame skyrocketed when, at the age of 67, she became the Diva of Buena Vista Social Club in 1997.

Throughout her career, Omara has garnered numerous accolades and recognition for her exceptional talent. In 2009, she won her first Latin Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Tropical Album and was honoured with a Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Her contributions to Cuban music and culture were further acknowledged when she received the Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts from the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sports in 2021, presented by the King and Queen of Spain. Additionally, she was the recipient of the prestigious Songlines Pioneer Award for her lifelong dedication to Cuban music.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Omara remained true to her compassionate and humane nature. Stranded in Havana at the age of 90, she expressed herself through music, inviting her lifelong friends and colleagues to participate in a long-distance recording project. Her son, Ariel Jiménez Portuondo, along with artistic producer Gaby Moreno, organised the album, understanding Omara's need for creative action and capturing the essence of her musicality.

VIDA reflects Omara's thoughts and emotions during these tumultuous times while paying homage to the beauty of life itself. Bangalore Mirror caught up with the artist ahead of the event.

"It started when I was 18 years old. My parents were the ones who led me to this music career and since then I started singing. I was in several vocal quartets, but the one I was in the longest was the D Aidas quartet for 15 years. It was a wonderful musical formation, and that's how I took my professional path," she recalled.

Her interpretation of boleros is widely recognised and celebrated.

This was 'a stage that began with feelings' for her. "Bolero is important for Cuban, Latin, and world music because of its melodic lines and text," she explained.

Omara has had a career spanning more than half a century, and every moment has been memorable for her. Every moment has had its space and its strength, she told BM.

She shed some light on the collaboration process with her soon for VIDA. "This has been done by my son Ariel and Oreste Sound Engineer. My granddaughter Rossio Gavi Moreno collaborated to check some edges and produced eight songs musically for me. I am grateful that these artists have agreed to come together on this album," she said.

It is not just for VIDA - Ariel has been her driving force for everything, informed Omara. While they love working together, there are also disagreements. "In the end, life has led us to have a dynamic with love and respect. My granddaughter, although she is more shy like me, has also helped with my projects and worked at my concerts," she added.

The year 2020 not only brought with it the challenges of the pandemic, but also the resurgence of the fight against systemic racism and violence. Like many of her songs, 'Now' is a rendition that seeks social change.

"'Now' is a song that I heard from Lena Horn and started performing in the 70s. It is a song that expresses the feeling of racism against black people in the United States and the systemic violence. I am against that; I am always against governments that use us for their own ends. In the end, the ones who pay are the people of our country and region. Everybody is paying attention to the war in Ukraine and Russia but nobody is talking about Africa and no one mentions Africa. Because of that, this song is a tribute to so many people in this world who are mistreated and it is time to stop all this," she said.

She likes to channel her emotions into her music. She said, "'Duele' is a song that reflects a little bit on me. It hurts to be as I am - human, simple, honest, and hard working, and 'Silencio' is a song that became popular when I sang it with Ibrahim Ferrer in a duet with Buena Vista Social Club. It is a tribute to Ibrahim Ferrer. Both are reflections to memorise the people we lost due to the pandemic."

Omara was a member of the International Red Cross doing benefit concerts. She has supported the Cuban government with donations, the most recent one made during the pandemic. She donated material for hospitals, was a part of various humanitarian projects, and also supported the defense of women in Cuba and the world. "I would like to work with a foundation in India for the defense of women and children too," she informed.

"In Cuba there is a TV channel that shows many Indian movies, especially musicals with their dances, so I feel honoured to be able to visit India at my age. I thank Mr Kamal Sagar and his foundation for inviting me to sing," said Omara.

Although her merging of humanitarianism and music has earned her numerous awards throughout her career, including Grammy nominations and a Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, her biggest prize is her audience. "I have really received them (awards) with much respect and affection but the influence is in my work as a person. It is good that the academies recognise you, but the best recognition is the public and my Cuban people," she said.

To catch her live, head to Windmills, Whitefield, on June 8 and 9 (8:30 pm onwards). This is a ticketed event.

All you need to know about...

Bee/wasp allergy

What are the symptoms?
Localised reactions- redness and swelling at the site of the sting, which can be mild and disappear in a few hours, or can be larger than 10cm in diameter and last over 24 hours.
Mild general reactions- skin swelling and hives in an area remote from the sting.
Moderate/general reactions (anaphylaxis) – swelling of the throat and mouth, difficulty in swallowing, speaking and breathing, generalised flushing of the skin, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting, sudden feeling of weakness, collapse and unconsciousness..

How is it diagnosed?
Skin tests are usually performed which involve a small 'intradermal' injection under the skin. These tests are available at allergy clinics. It's important to be referred to an allergy specialist as people at risk should be given an adrenaline auto-injector device and taught how to use it.

How to prevent it?
The best protection is light-coloured clothing that covers much of the body (particularly the feet). Avoid wearing perfumes, bright colours and flowery prints. If you're out gardening, wear long sleeves, long trousers and gloves.

Management
For localised reactions use rapid-acting antihistamines as advised by your GP or pharmacist.
Large local reactions can also be treated with oral steroid tablets (also from your doctor) as soon as you are stung and repeated for three days.
For anaphylactic reactions, if an adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector is available, use it immediately. Call an ambulance and inform them that the patient is suffering from anaphylaxis. Keep the person lying down. If they haven't recovered in five minutes, give a second adrenaline injection.

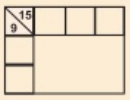
—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

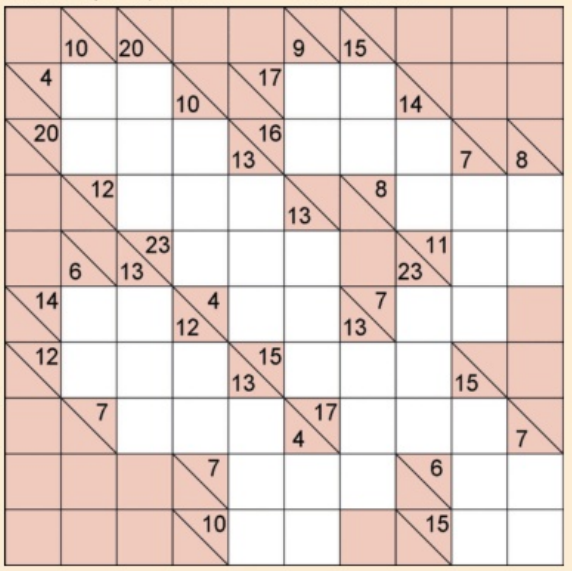
Ten randomly arranged cards lay face down. Each card has a different number in the 1 to 10 range. What is the probability of drawing 2 cards (without replacement) that have numbers that add up to 16 or higher?

Kakuro

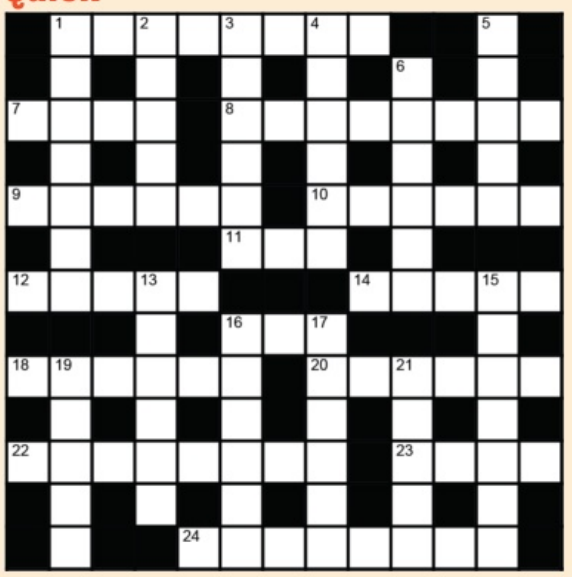
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Breaks up or scatters a group (8)
7 Indian meditation system (4)
8 Our capital (3,5)
9 Somnolent (6)
10 Make short visit? (4,2)
11 Feminine pronoun (3)
12 Turn of phrase (5)
14 Agricultural holdings (5)
16 Dry (as with wines) (3)
18 ___ City: Bangalore of course (6)
20 Annually (6)
22 Shameless audacity (8)
23 Wading bird (4)
24 Postpone (8)

DOWN

1 Drew idly (7)
2 Portion (5)
3 Irks or pesters (6)
4 Be slow and waste time (6)
5 Batsman Virat ____ (5)
6 Title for a Spanish lady (6)
13 Peculiar aspect (6)
15 Feeling of mild sickness (7)
16 Concealed gunman (6)
17 Secret code (6)
19 Detest (5)
21 Imitating (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS L
BM BY PIVV MG MLBKR PIVV;
BM BY FBEBKI MG TAM PIVV.

Linemaro

I am obscenely rich

Mindchow

Don't take things for granted; take them with gratitude

Joke of the day

Patient: Doctor, Doctor I feel like a pair of curtains!
Doctor: Well, pull yourself together.

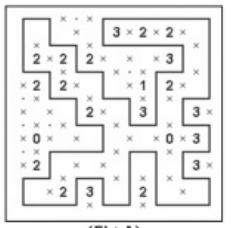
Loop

Rules

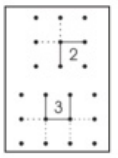
» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

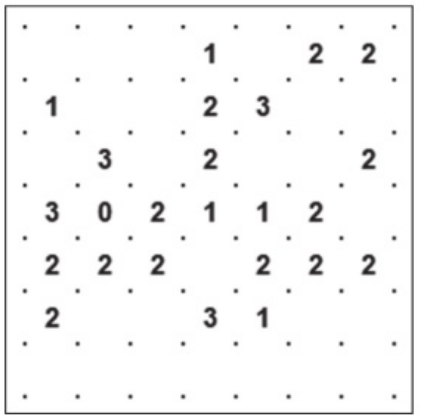
Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



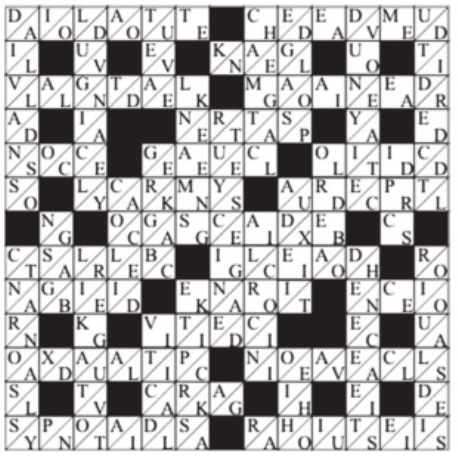
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



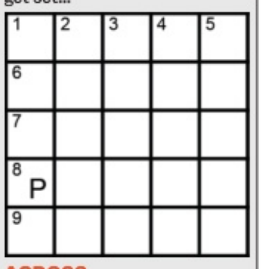
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

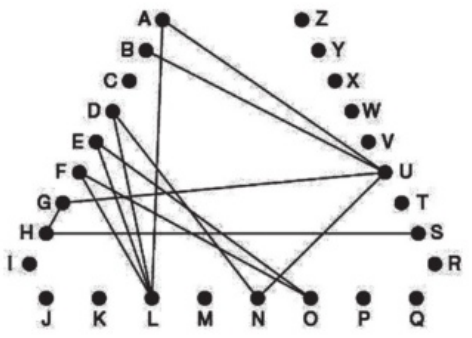
1 K dash; 6 Aider;
7 All II; 8 Nepal;
9 So Hug

DOWN

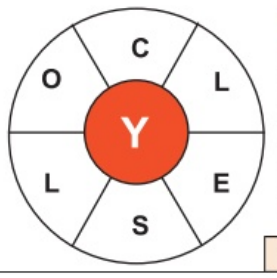
1 R dips; 2 O Hell;
3 A due I; 4 A king;
5 Lhasa

Mensapuzzle

Find the starting point and track along the connecting lines from letter to letter to spell out a well-known phrase (6, 2, 6).



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

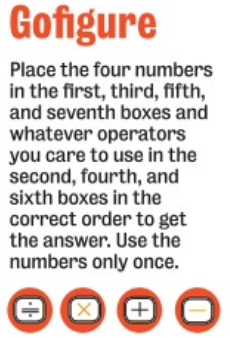
SudokuChallenge

8	7		5		2		3	9
				4				
3		6		9		4		2
7			8		4			5
9			6		1			3
6		5		3		2		8
				1				
4	3		2		5		6	7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 21
1 2 3 4

Medium = 2
2 7 8 8

Hard = 5
3 4 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

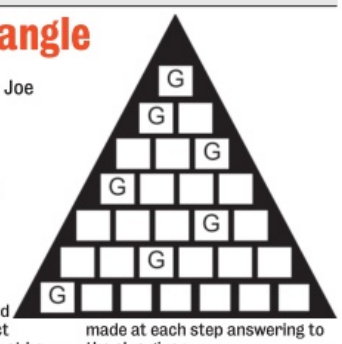
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Bush is reversed. 4. Rope is moved. 5. Ear is higher. 6. Leaves are moved.

Riddler

What can go through glass without breaking it?

Alpha triangle

1 1000 colloquially
2 American soldier Joe
3 Fix a fight
4 Framework
5 Funereal music
6 More jittery
7 Felt deep sorrow



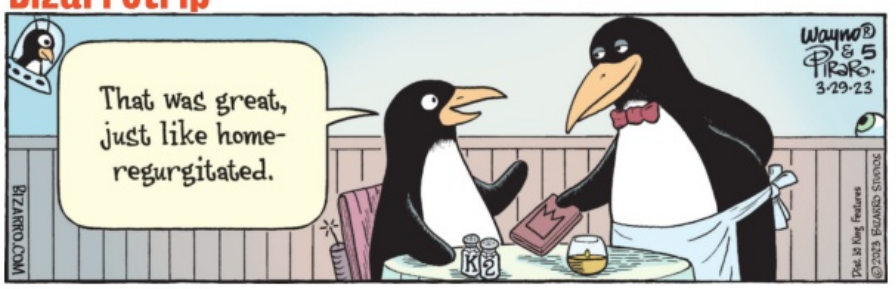
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

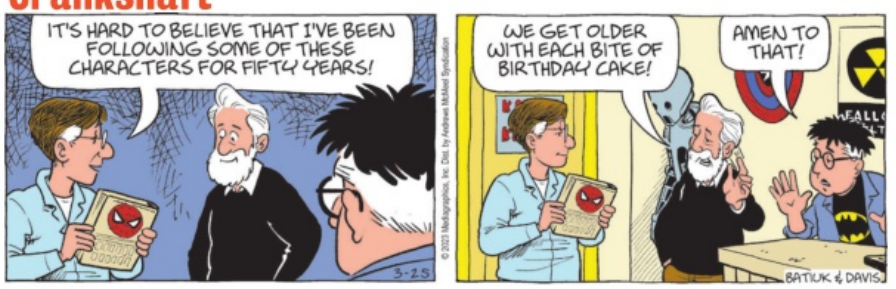


Diamond Lil

I WENT BACK TO THAT NEW PLACE AGAIN FOR LUNCH
IT'S CALLED BACON ON EVERYTHING
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
EVERYTHING
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING SOME OF THESE CHARACTERS FOR FIFTY YEARS!
WE GET OLDER WITH EACH BITE OF BIRTHDAY CAKE!
AMEN TO THAT!
3-25
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today your vital power may slow down; your old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligations, you may settle out of the jury. You may also plan for a short trip.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions, which may increase your management skills and may give benefits in the near future. You may expect some new source of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some amount in the business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be busy at your office. Due to mental tiredness, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of an elder's blessing, job seekers may get some high position in the job; managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may increase your status. Professionally you may do better.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel some positive vibrations around you, which may show you the right path. With the help of peace in mind, your performance on every front may be noticeable. Your destiny is with you. You may plan to visit a religious place, which is somehow far from your territory. Your inner sense may ask you to do some charity. You may also hear some good news in terms of grandchildren.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel some internal weakness. Some major health issues may be reoccurred. You may not be able to enjoy it on a domestic and professional front. Running projects may stop unexpectedly, it may make you upset. You are advised to drive safely. The elder's blessing may help you to come out from the messy situation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel a positive vibration around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect some long distance travel also. You will make a faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day for you. Investors may get good gains in their investments, it may boost your financial health. Money which was stuck, may be recovered; it may increase liquidity in the business. You may become confident and control over hidden enemies and opponents. Singles are likely to find their match in the same field or work place.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel dissatisfied; you may not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Parents' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your office; it is advised to postpone renovation for some days.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may plan to migrate from your current place to another place. It is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration or change of place. You may also plan to change jobs. There will be peace in the mind. But your kids' health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in the investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may have good patience. Meditation may help you to increase concentration, which may help to speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you, it may help you to complete the project before the timeline. You are likely to go on short travels related to work. An influential person may help you to boost your network.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be busy with family get together and social events; you may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money buying some artifacts or household stuff, which may improve your social status. You are likely to hear some good news from one of your relatives.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon; you may feel healthy, which may reflect into your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today; you may make some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

KIDZONE

Srujan Simha, 8 years, Mysuru

Sanjanaa V, 14 years, KV DRDO School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

Compute all possible unique combinations:
10x10=100
remove same integer combinations
100-10=90
take half to eliminate mirror reflections
90/2=45
Unique pairs that add to 16 or more:
10+6=16
10+7=17
10+8=18
10+9=19
9+7=16
9+8=17
Probability: 6/45=2/15

FAST FIVE

D	H	A	K	S
R	E	D	I	A
I	L	I	A	L
P	L	E	N	A
S	O	U	G	H

STRIKE OUT

S	P	O	I	L	S	R	O	U	T	E	S			
L	T	A	K	A	H	I	E							
A	N	O	T	Z	P	A	H	I	B	I	S			
O	X	A	L	I	C	N	O	V	E	L	S			
R	G	V	I	D	I	C	U							
A	B	E	D	K	N	O	T	E	C	O				
C	A	L	E	B	I	L	I	A	D	R				
S	Y	A	R	N	S	A	D	E	P	T				
N	O	C	G	A	E	L	O	T	I	C				
A	A	E	R	A	S	A	E							
V	A	N	D	A	L	M	O	A	N	E	R			
I	U	E	K	E	G	O	I							
D	I	L	A	T	E	H	E	A	D	E	D			

QUICK

R		P	R	O	R	O	G	U	E					
O	Y	E	E	N	S									
C	H	U	T	Z	P	A	H	I	B	I	S			
B	I	P	P	A										
G	A	R	B	E	N	Y	E	A	R	L	Y			
D	S	E	C	A										
I	D	I	O	M	F	A	R	M	S					
E	S	H	E	R										
S	L	E	E	P	Y	L	O	O	K	I	N			
D	R	O	D	N	L									
Y	O	G	A	N	E	W	B	E	L	H	I			
O	H	N	A	S	O									
D	I	S	B	A	N	D	S	K						

SUDOKU

8	7	4	5	6	2	1	3	9
1	2	9	7	4	3	5	8	6
3	5	6	1	9	8	4	7	2
7	1	3	8	2	4	6	9	5
5	6	2	3	7	9	8	4	1
9	4	8	6	5	1	7	2	3
6	9	5	4	3	7	2	1	8
2	8	7	9	1	6	3	5	4
4	3	1	2	8	5	9	6	7

MENSA PUZZLE

bundle of laughs

BULL'S EYE

CLOSELY, cloy, cosy, solely, yell

QUOTE UNCODE

It is well to think well; It is divine to act well.

RIDDLER

Light

GO FIGURE

Easy
2 + 4 + 1 × 3 = 21
Medium
8 + 8 − 2 / 7 = 2
Hard
3 − 3 − 4 + 9 = 5

ALPHA TRIANGLE

G, GI, RIG, Grid, Dirge, Edger, Grieved.

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Big-ticket film
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" opened in US and Canadian theaters with a massive $120.5 million

FEELS LIKE A DEBUT

Sara Ali Khan overjoyed about audience reaction to her latest film

Actor Sara Ali Khan has expressed gratitude to audience for appreciating her performance in her latest release 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'.

"I have really missed seeing myself on the big screen, and I'm so filled with excitement and gratitude for the warmth, love and acceptance that I'm seeing post the release of Zara Hatke Zara Bachke," she said.

The actor feels exactly how she felt when 'Kedarnath', her debut, was released in 2018.

"It truly feels like a debut again - and I just hope I can keep growing and keep pushing the boundary to just do better and better work. Every film is an opportunity to learn and grow, and while the journey is endless, it's important to celebrate these little victories," she added.

On Sunday, Sara went to a cinema hall to watch the film with her brother Ibrahim and mother Amrita Singh.

Speaking about the same, Sara shared, "I'm so thankful that my brother and mother have laughed so hard watching this film, cried in the climax and are proud of me and the film. Just onwards and upwards from here."

Set in the small town of Indore, the storyline of Zara Hatke Zara Bachke follows two college lovers, Kapil and Saumya who are madly in love with each other. Sara's on screen chemistry with Vicky has left the audiences in love with the fresh pairing.

In the coming months, Sara will be seen in Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak', Anurag Basu's 'Metro Inn..Dino' and 'Ae Watan Mere Watan'. **—ANI**

Concert night

Actor Priyanka Chopra had a fun-filled musical as she attended singer Beyonce's concert, Renaissance World Tour, in London.

Several pictures and videos from the gig surfaced online in which Priyanka is seen dancing her heart out and cheering for the performers.

She attended the concert with her mother Madhu Chopra.

Priyanka also shared glimpses of the concert and gave a shoutout to Beyonce.

"I dream it, I work hard. I grind 'til I own it, I twirl on them haters - Beyonce .Damn! What a woman and what a night.With my main girls @tam2cul @drmadhuakhourichopra So glad you could finally see it #blueivy was amazing dancers we're Thank you #JayZ and Queen @beyonce for the incredible hospitality. Thank you @nickjonas for the most memorable night! Love u baby #renaissanceworldtour," she wrote.

Priyanka opted for a stunning black ensemble for the concert, featuring a cropped blouse and a midi-length skirt. She was twinning with her mother in black." **—ANI**

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

When on a holiday

Rakul Preet Singh sure knows how to make a splash when she is on a vacation.

Kalki's green take

On World Environment Day (June 5), one introspects on their deeds.The one to walk the talk, actress Kalki Koechlin has been a champion of environmental causes and a green way of living.

Nature is often pitted against progress by naysayers and Environmental conservation looked upon as an elitist cause. When asked to share her take on this, the actress said,"To be environment friendly, you need to pay extra costs, so it's looked upon as an elitist argument. If you want to buy organic products, it's a luxury because they are more expensive. Our environmental policies need to change on a greater level so that everyone has more access to these things. Once everyone starts benefitting, the perception will change. There is some awareness now. People are talking about the need to save places like the Aarey colony, given the spike in pollution in Mumbai. So things are getting better." **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Strong bond

The poem -Yava Mohana Murali Kareyithu – written by Gopala Krishna Adiga for Kannada movie America America was a huge hit more than two decades ago. Now, the title of the song is being used as a title for a movie that highlights the bond between a girl and an abandoned pet dog. Vishwas Krishna debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie.

A function was organised for the release of the teaser of this movie. "I worked as an associate for a few Kannada movies. Yava Mohana Murali Kareyithu is my maiden movie as a director. The movie is about the bond between a special girl child and an abandoned pet dog. Both meet at an ashram and try to move on in life with happiness. At this juncture, a villain enters the scene," said Vikash Krishna.

He said the movie was shot around Jog Falls in monsoon.

Aspire to inspire

The muhurat function of Rudra Garuda Purana was held at Karanji Anjaneyaswamy Temple recently. Satish Ninasam sounded the clap board for the opening shot and also unveiled the movie's title and wished good luck to the cast and crew.

Rishi, who earned fame for his performance in the movies Operation Alamelamma and Kavaludaari, is playing the lead in this movie. KS Nandeesh, who handled the megaphone for Chambal and Dear Vikram, is helming this movie. Nandeesh said Rudra Garuda Purana will be a different movie. "I wanted to direct movies that have the potential to impact people. For example, K Saurabh from Mysuru who got 265th rank in the UPSC told the media that the movie Prithvi, in which Puneeth Rajkumar played the lead, inspired him. I worked as an assistant director for Prithvi," said Nandeesh.

About the role in this movie, Rishi said he is a cop. "I also played a cop in Kavaludaari in 2019 but I turned down many similar offers because I do not want to get typecast," he said.